

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed to submit amendments and information in any other manner indicated below.

PENDING CLAIMS

Original Claim 1 has been retained from the parent application, and original Claims 2-4 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer of any scope or subject matter. Applicant reserves the right to file a Supplemental Preliminary Amendment containing appropriate claims directed to Applicant's claimed invention for examination in the present application. At entry of this paper, Claim 1 is pending in the application.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended in accordance with the amendments made thereto in the parent application.

ASSIGNEE OF ENTIRE INTEREST

Hitachi, Ltd. is Assignee of entire right, title and interest in and to the present application by virtue of the Assignment recorded in Serial No. 09/516,504 recorded 21 June 2000 at Reel 010867, Frames 0624+.

CLAIMS FOR PRIORITY UNDER §§119 AND 120

In view of the amendment to the specification to identify the prior applications upon which benefit is claimed in the present continuation, Applicant respectfully

requests acknowledgement of the claim for priority under §120 in the present application.

Further, Applicant claims priority of JP 11-083070 filed 26 March 1999 and JP 11-005608 filed 3 March 1999, the certified copies of which were submitted in prior application Serial No. 09/516,504. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests acknowledgment of the claim for priority under §119 in the present application.

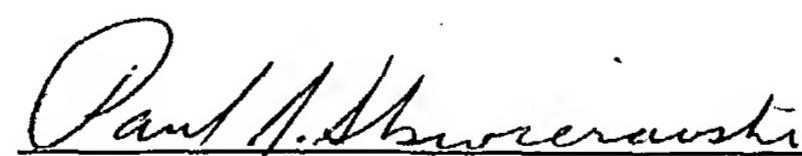
EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the local D.C. area number 703-312-6600, to discuss an Examiner's Amendment or other suggested action for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

CONCLUSION

This Preliminary Amendment is filed to submit amendments and information in the present continuation application. No Petition or extension of time is possible, Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper to ATS&K Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (as Case No. 500.38284CX1).

Respectfully submitted,



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